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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 8.

OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	3,600
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948 ...	1,064
Rateable Value	£22,556
Net product of a penny rate	£ 91

VITAL STATISTICS

		MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births	- Legitimate	32	28	60
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
		32	29	61
Still Births	- Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		1	2	3

	Rate for District	Rate for England and Wales
Birth Rate	16.09	19.2
Death Rate	11.06	10.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	32	32

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	-
Influenza ...	-	1
Cancer of the buccal cavity and oesophagus	2	-
Cancer of the Uterus ...	-	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-
Cancer of all other sites ...	1	-
Diabetes ...	1	-
	6	2

(continued)

	Males	Females
Causes of Death (continued) - bt. fwd.	6	2
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	3	3
Heart diseases ...	4	9
Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	2
Bronchitis ...	1	-
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	-
Nephritis ...	1	2
Premature birth ...	1	-
Congenital malformation - birth injury - infant diseases ...	1	-
All other causes ...	2	2
	22	20

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Urban District.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Blood	50
Faeces	56
Faeces and Urine	6
Catheter urine	5
Urine	3
Vaginal swab	4
Pleural fluid	4
Pus swab	2
Pus from lung	1
Fluid	1
Sloughing muscle from calf	1
Wound swab	1
Blood films	2
Pus from empyema	1
Gastric Lavage	1
Abscess swab	1
Sputum	29
Throat swab	43
Swab from ear	3
Sinus swab	1
Naso-pharyngeal swab	1
Post-nasal swab	1
Ear swab	1
Nose swabs	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	4
(b) from piped supply including 4 at sources	16

Results of samples taken :-

(a) from wells -	unsatisfactory	...	4
	satisfactory	...	-
(b) from piped supply -	unsatisfactory	...	4
	satisfactory	...	12

Only two of the unsatisfactory wells were actually used during the year and one of these has now been replaced by piped supply.

In addition five samples were taken outside the district for reports on suitability for augmenting supplies.

The public supply was restricted for part of the year but was restored to full supply at the end of the year, and the prospects for 1949 are good.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 34 houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, Burley, and parts of Ashwell and Barleythorpe in the Rural District of Oakham.

There were four cases of main water being substituted for well water.

1041 taps etc., were adjusted or re-washered free of charge.

About 97% of the houses and a rather higher percentage of population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and, in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses. During the year water was led into houses in three cases, in addition to the four above.

There are no public stand-pipes.

600 yards of 3" main were laid to provide water for new Private and Council Houses.

The Council propose to take water supplies from Leicester Corporation when it is available.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

No important changes occurred during the year, except for the laying of 70 yds. of new sewer for a housing estate.

Total number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1948 12

2. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1948:-

(1) Privies	-
(2) Pail Closets	35
(3) Water Closets	Approx. 1,170

(continued).

2. Closet Accommodation (Continued).

Number of privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year - Nil.

Number of Pail Closets abolished during the year - Nil.

Neither water nor sewer is available to 21 of the above 35 pail closets. Others will disappear as a result of Demolition Orders or conversion, etc., in the near future. Pail Closet conversions to water carriage for the last five years have been, 2, 3, nil, nil and nil.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

One man was engaged part time on the Refuse Tip with beneficial results. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no fly nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in less than 5 days each week.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	25
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints	23

Nature of inspections:-

Inspections and re-inspections.

Dwelling houses (all purposes)	200
Tents, Vans, etc.	3
* Slaughter Houses	-
Food premises	50
Dairies and cowsheds	15
Offensive trades	-
Animal keeping	5
Factories, etc.	60
Shops	25
Other premises	20
Water wastage	200
	578

* Slaughtering is at the Central abbattoir, Melton Mowbray. Pigs are occasionally killed in Oakham.

NOTICES.

Preliminary	Housing	Other.
Outstanding on 1st Jan. 1948	2	2
Issued during the year	14	27
Complied with during year	16	28
Outstanding 31st December, 1948	-	1
Statutory action necessary	-	1

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N O T I C E S

Statutory	Housing	Other
Outstanding 1st January, 1948	3	-
Issued during the year	-	-
Complied with during year	-	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1948	3	-

The outstanding Housing Notices are Demolition Orders which are operative. Only two of the three houses are occupied.

Most of the work is done by letter or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

5. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council houses infested	-
Number of other dwelling houses found to be infested	1
Number of houses disinfested	1

The method of disinfestation was by spraying and fumigating and destruction of infested bedding.

6. SCHOOLS.

The Secondary School is a modern well-lighted building; so also are the Junior House, "Wharflands" and "Deanscroft". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the water supply is good.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Owned by School Trustees and loaned to The Council	1
Number of inspections	6

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	Cowkeepers.	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).
Number on the Register	6	7
Number of inspections of premises	9	6
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year		-
Number of contraventions found during the year	-	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	-	-

(Of the 7 Dairymen 2 have no premises in Oakham).

2 Cowsheds were improved during the year and registered in January, 1949. One is occupied by a Cowkeeper already registered in respect of other premises.

2. Four samples of ice cream were taken and conveyed by road to the Laboratories.

Two were Grade II.
Two were Grade III.

Very little ice cream is made in Oakham, and in 1948 less than formerly One in each of the above Grades was pre-packed and not produced here. There are now only two producers in Oakham. Visits were paid to the premises by the Sanitary Inspector and your Medical Officer of Health and advice given as to the best methods of obtaining better results.

3. MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections 18

4. PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of Inspections 32

146 lbs. tinned fruit, 3 lbs. tinned fish, 20 lbs. tinned milk, 19 lbs. tinned meat, 82 lbs. tinned vegetables, 14½ lbs. cereals, 12½ lbs. prunes and 4 lbs. of meat pies were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

H O U S I N G.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 125

(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose 130

(b) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ... -

(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7

(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 15

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 3

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Section II and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	-
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936 ...	-

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1948	1
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	2
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	14

There are cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1935.

Five cases of overcrowding, involving 36 persons, were abated in 1948. There were, (at 31st Dec., 1948), living in Oakham, 107 applicants for Council Houses. 51 of these persons are sharing houses with parents or others. In addition 53 persons now outside the Urban District also require houses here. The list is constantly being revised.

During the year the Council had 27 houses completed. 39 more Council houses were in progress in January, 1949, including 5 Airey houses. Two private houses were completed during the year and two adaptations. Twelve were in progress in Jan.,1949, including 6 "Eventide" homes. These were provided out of the estate of the late D. N. Royce, Esq., (a former Council Chairman). It is unfortunate that completion of these has been so long delayed.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Dysentery	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Measles	12	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-

A G E G R O U P S

Disease	Under One	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/64	65 & over
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	1	1	-	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

The incidence of infectious disease was very light during the year.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

AGE GROUP	New Cases						Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Only one new case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year, making a total of 14 on the Register. This figure can be regarded as very satisfactory.

S C A B I E S

The Council had made arrangements with the Joint Committee of the Melton & Belvoir Rural District Council and the Melton Mowbray Urban District Council for the treatment of cases of scabies in the area. No case occurred in the district prior to 5th July, 1948, when the Clinic at Melton Mowbray was closed. The responsibility for the treatment of this disease has now passed to the Regional Hospital Board.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
MELTON MOWBRAY.